Printing the prices of life saving drugs

†96. SHRIMATI SAVITASHARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for printing the price of life saving drugs alongwith the sales tax on their packing is under consideration of Government so as to avoid inconvenience to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE 'MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 95), prices of both Scheduled and Non-Scheduled formulations are printed as "retail price not to exceed..... local taxes extra" Representations have been received from time to time that the provisions of the DPCO 95 should be amended for printing the retail prices of all medicines inclusive of all taxes. Various options are being considered for solving the problem, however, due to difference in types and rates of local taxes of States/local authorities, no proper solutions has been found so far.

Scope of Indian Pharma industry in U.S.

97. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether $7 billion market has opened up for Indian Pharma Industry in the U.S. generic segment during the current year;

(b) whether pharma companies will also have a feasibility of making their way into the $ 33 billion patent challenge-led opportunity;

(c) whether these Indian pharma companies have any future in U.S.;

(d) if so, whether for last three years in Indian companies have built credibility with U.S. trade channels for product quality service, competition pricing and smooth supply chain resulting in market share gains; and

(e) if so, to what extent India has been able to monitor U.S. market?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRl K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) Indian Pharma Industry is exporting to U.S. generic segments already. The generic segment is increasing every year.

(b) About 1.3 of the top 35 molecules are due to lose US patent protection by 2005. Indian pharma companies certainly have a feasibility of making their way into the patent challenge-led opportunity.

(c) to (e) Indian pharma companies have established their presence in US market. Indian companies are one of the major contributors in Drug Master File (DMF) filling with US Food and Drug Administration. Many Indian Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) manufacturers are supplying to US market. Some Indian Companies are supplying formulations also.

The export of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals & Crude drugs to USA has increased from $ 218.9 million in 2000-01 to $ 449.6 million in 2002-03.

Working of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.

98. SHRl K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL) has been referred to BIFR;

(b) if so, the details of the profit/loss make by HOCL and the parent unit at Rasayani in Maharashtra during the last three years, company-wise;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal regarding the revival of the Rasayani unit;

(d) whether Government have received any proposal for the merger of HOCL Cochin Unit with Kochi refineries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details decision taken by Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRl K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir